

Weekly Status & Information Report: Week of January 17, 2005

1. **Employee Awards Ceremony:** Recognition/Awards Ceremony for City Employees will be held January 28 at 10 a.m. in the Council Chambers. Service Pins, Unused Sick Leave Awards and Special Recognition Awards will be awarded. City Council is invited to attend. (*Human Resources*)
2. **Hospital Zoning Text Amendment Public Meeting:** A public meeting on a possible zoning text amendment related to hospitals will be held on Tuesday, January 25 in the Takoma Park City Council Chambers from 7-9 pm. It will be televised on City TV Cable Channel 13. For more information, contact Joel Gallihue at 301-495-2119 or joel.gallihue@mncppc-mc.org. (*Community & Government Liaison*)
3. **Local Park Facility Plan Public Meeting (Ward 1 and 4):** The public meeting concerning the Takoma-Piney Branch Local Park Facility Plan was rescheduled to its announced snow date of Wednesday, January 26, again at the Takoma Park Middle School. For more information, contact Ellen Masciocchi at 301-650-2867 or ellen.masciocchi@mncppc-mc.org. (*Community & Government Liaison*)
4. **Police Records Meeting:** Capt. Coursey and Denise Pullet attended the Maryland Police Planners meeting, which looked at digital photography issues in law enforcement and other record storage issues. They met with County and other municipal officials to discuss concerns and methods for adapting a uniform records management system. (*Police*)
5. **Crime Blotter:** A man was apprehended in Virginia during a robbery attempt last Friday; TPPD has obtained a warrant for him on charges related to a December 2004 armed robbery of a University Boulevard business in the City. Detectives have also extradited three individuals this month on charges for three separate incidents including a May robbery, a February 4th degree burglary, and failure to appear on charges related to theft and drug possession. (*Police*)
6. **Carroll Avenue Sidewalk Art Project:** The pending Carroll Avenue Streetscape project provides for the inclusion of public art in the residential section of the project (between Philadelphia and Columbia Avenues). The proposals have been vetted by a committee of the Arts and Humanities Commission and are now available for public viewing. The proposals can be seen on the City's website beginning Monday, January 24 and at the Farmer's Market on Sunday, February 5 between 10:30 am and noon. A community meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Thursday, February 3 in the Council Chambers. The review committee's final recommendation, developed based upon the professional and technical expertise of its members and factoring in the comments received by the community during this process, will be forwarded to the full AHC for consideration on February 15. The selected artwork will be presented to the City Council for review February 22. (*Housing and Community Development*)

7. **LBTF Meeting:** The Long Branch Task Force held their monthly meeting on Thursday, January 20, at the Long Branch Community Center. There was a panel discussion with M-NCPPC, Montgomery County Recreation Department and Takoma Park Recreation Department to talk about the parks and stream beds and the recreation opportunities in the Long Branch area. Matt Corley, Assistant Recreation Director, represented the city highlighting the Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue and the new Community Center currently under construction. The current renovation of the Toatlly-Fraiser Park on Eastridge was also discussed. (*Recreation*)
8. **PEG Network:** Attached please find the January edition of PEG Board, a regular e-newsletter published by the PEG Network. This one page update is distributed to anyone involved with or interested in the PEG Access channels in the County, including political and civic leaders (PDF file attached). (*City TV*)
9. **Recreation Staff Orientation:** On January 6, 2005, the Recreation Department staff had a "re-orientation" training to review policies and procedures of the department and the city. There will be an evening training for those who could not make the training during the day. This is a precursor to an orientation for all new employees. (*Recreation*)
10. **Senior Trips:** The Seniors took a scenic day trip to Gettysburg in November to feast their eyes on the ever changing beautiful color scenery that the mountains provide. They ate lunch at the famous Cozy Buffet in Thurmont, MD then continued on to Gettysburg, PA where they had a rolling tour of the battlefield. (*Recreation*)
11. **Winter Lights:** In December, a full van of 13 Seniors traveled up to Seneca Creek State Park, Gaithersburg, and enjoyed a 3.5 mile drive-through the enchanted forest setting, featuring more than 350 lighted displays including 60 animated ones. (*Recreation*)
12. **MLK Celebration:** The City's Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration took place on Friday, January 14th, at the Takoma Park Middle School. This year's program included a variety of performances including the Takoma Park Middle School Honors Jazz Band, The Blair High School Honors Jazz Band, Columbia Union College's Gospel Choir, the Takoma Park Recreation Department Step Team and the Danny Epps Swing Jazz Band. More than 500 people were in attendance. (*Recreation*)
13. **Library New Additions:** The Library now has two new custom computer work tables for the two public Internet workstations we purchased through a Friends donation in the Fall. Beginning February 1st., we will limit users to one session per day, in order to make the computers available to more people. Sessions are up to one hour long, and begin and end on the hour. (*Library*)
14. **Winning Titles:** The Library is quite pleased to be in the position to say that when the Newbery and Caldecott Award winners were announced this past week at ALA Midwinter Conference, we had both titles in our collection. "Kira-Kira" by Cynthia Kadohata, the Newbery winner, is set in 1950s rural Georgia. It recounts the story of a

Japanese American family struggling against prejudice and exhausting labor at a poultry factory in order to build a rewarding life and highlights family loyalty, honour, and a luminous vision of "small" things in life. "Kitten's First Full Moon" by the multi-faceted Kevin Henkes is a shimmering, grey-toned, retro-look picture book, a warm and humorous story with elementally satisfying words, images, and rhythms. The new Harry Potter will not arrive until July! (*Library*)

15. **Annual Meeting & Board Elections:** The Friends of the Library will hold their annual meeting and Board elections on Tuesday March 22nd. Up for re-election are the positions of Treasurer and two Member-at-Large positions. (*Library*)

16. **Cultural Plan Update:** The Arts and Humanities Commission is continuing its work on the Cultural Plan for Takoma Park. The primary goals of the plan, based upon the results of the community survey, interviews with stakeholders, the comments received at the public meeting, and other contacts were identified this past Tuesday. A second meeting to further refine the identified goals is planned for February 1st. The Plan is to be presented to the Council during its February 22nd worksession. (*Housing and Community Development*)

17. **Takoma Park Poet Laureate:** The Arts and Humanities Commission is currently working to establish a Takoma Park Poet Laureate program. If you are interested in becoming involved in the development of this proposal and to refine the parameters of the program, please contact Sara Daines at 301.891.7224 or by email at SaraD@takomapark.org. The proposal is to be presented to the City Council for consideration this spring. (*Housing and Community Development*)

JANUARY 2005

www.peg.montgomerycountymd.gov 240-773-2288

ON LOCATION WITH THE PEG NETWORK

Watch for us this month in Rockville and Takoma Park as our EFP crews bring their on-location coverage of **Coming Attractions** and the **Martin Luther King Celebration** from the newly renovated Strathmore Hall and Takoma Park Middle School to the living rooms of Montgomery County's residents.

How are we able to bring these exciting events straight to your living room sets? Use of a mobile production vehicle allows us to cover these types of on-location events and reduce the level of effort the EFP production process requires.

What is an EFP? EFP (Electronic Field Production) is a term used in the TV industry to describe a multi-camera video production where large scheduled events outside the confines of the television studio (such as sporting events, parades, political gatherings, or special meetings) are brought to the TV screen. EFP productions of the past year include coverage of **Montgomery County Town Hall Meetings**, the University of Maryland's **Commemoration of Brown versus the Board of Education**, the **F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference**, the **County Executive's State of the County Address**, the **Montgomery County Gang Violence Task Force**, and the **City of Takoma Park's Jazz Fest, Jazz Brawl, and 4th of July Parade**.

What is a mobile production vehicle? It is a compact studio control room on wheels that minimizes equipment set-up/take down time, as well as the wear-and-tear normally associated with transporting equipment, and provides the production team with the flexibility and control needed to assure a high quality live or live-to-tape production in the field. However, as maintenance of a mobile production vehicle is extremely important to ensure project success, numerous hours must be dedicated for pre-engineering prior to any event.

How does it help? For the audience member, EFP productions support TV programming that provides an immediate, on-location sense of the sights and sounds of a community event. For the video producer, the mobile production vehicle facilitates the video crew's ability to document actual events as they occur, capture the essence of the event's environment, move from site to site, and provide customized production service at community locations. Without a mobile production vehicle – the level of effort required for on-location tapings is extensive. Production equipment must be packaged in heavy steel anvil cases and transported to the production site in cargo vans. Hours of crew time are required to set-up, connect, phase, and test the equipment before taping can begin. And, of course, at the end of the production: the system must be carefully dismantled, repackaged, and reloaded into the cargo van for return to the TV facility.

Fortunately, Montgomery College and Montgomery County Public Schools own and operate mobile production vehicles, and when possible, share the use of these two vehicles with the other members of the PEG Network to support the channels' EFP needs. MC's mobile production vehicle first hit the road the Fall semester of FY04. In its first year of use, MC's mobile production vehicle supported 25 College productions as well as many of the joint PEG coverage of County and municipal events. MCPS has operated its mobile production vehicle for the last eighteen years. Unfortunately, the age of this production tool shows in both the analog equipment installed and the vehicle itself. MCPS reports that their production van is developing mechanical and electrical system problems and anticipates that this may be the last year their production vehicle will be able to support shared use of the production vehicle with PEG Network members.

Does this mean that County residents should expect fewer hours of community event programming? No – the PEG Network is exploring replacement options for the MCPS vehicle, as the demand for remote event coverage, and support for increased communications and dissemination of public information to diverse populations, continues to grow.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**COUNTY CABLE
MONTGOMERY**

Channel 6



What is County Cable Montgomery (CCM)? It's your local government access channel. Our programming is designed to show our viewers how actions of local government affect our lives everyday, and how laws created and passed at the local level have tremendous impact on us. CCM shows you the steps of the County's lawmaking process and how residents can have strong input into what does, and does not, become a law, what programs are needed, and the budget process.

CCM cablecasts live & repeat programming of sessions of governmental bodies including County Council sessions and public hearings, hearings held by the County Executive or by departments or agencies of County government; press conferences; public affairs programming, programs about governmental process and County services; coverage of special events; community bulletin information; and acquired programming from federal and state agencies. During the Maryland State Assembly, CCM airs committee and state sessions. We also offer specialty shows such as **Sight on Seniors**, **Paths to the Present** and **Did You Know**. Plus, our programming is streamed live on the Internet and is available on demand.

CCM cablecasts announcements of an emergency nature affecting the public health or safety. During these times, CCM keeps you up to date on activities and information specific to Montgomery County.

Through partnership with the Department of Public Works and Transportation, we cablecast live traffic reports during morning and evening rush hours and during weather related emergencies to provide timely and accurate information on road conditions, MCPS closings, Ride-On Bus, Metro or MARC rail delays, or local program cancellations.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- MCPS-ITV recently videotaped MCPS students attending a concert at the new Music Center at Strathmore. The concert consisted of performances by the National Philharmonic orchestra, two MCPS high school student soloists, and 10,000 second graders performing a song with the orchestra. The program will air in January.
- In response to continuing community concern about fatal road accidents involving teenagers, The Rockville Channel will air encore presentations of **Every 15 Minutes** in January and February. **Every 15 Minutes** aims to educate students about driving responsibly and focuses on the effects of drunk-driving accidents and reducing teen drinking and driving.



YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Public • Education • Government



Takoma Park City TV
Channel 13
Phone: 301-891-7118
Fax: 301-270-8794
Email: cabletv@takomagov.org
Web: cityoftakomapark.org/cable



UMUC-TV
University of Maryland
University College
Channel 18
Phone: 301-985-7439
Fax: 301-985-7845
Email: msmith@umuc.edu
Web: umuc.edu/umuc-tv



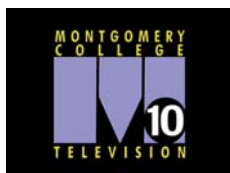
UMTV
University of Maryland
College Park
Channel 2
Phone: 301-405-3610
Fax: 301-405-0496
Email: umtv@jmail.umd.edu
Web: umtv.umd.edu



The Rockville Channel
Channel 11
Phone: 240-314-8189
Fax: 240-314-8179
Email: dbreisch@rockvillemd.gov
Web: rockvillemd.gov/trc11



Montgomery County Public Schools
Instructional TV
Channels 33/34 or 88/89
Phone: 301-279-3141
Fax: 301-279-3118
Email: Dick.Lipsky@mcpsmd.org
Web: mcps.k12.md.us/departments/itv



Montgomery College Television
Channel 10
Phone: 301-738-8044
Fax: 301-251-7162
Email: brian.baker@montgomerycollegemd.edu
Web: montgomerycollege.edu/itv



Montgomery Community Television
Montgomery Channel
Channel 21
Phone: 301-424-1730
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Montgomery Community Television
The Open Channel
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County Cable Montgomery
Channel 6
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Web: montgomerycountymd.gov



Montgomery Municipal Cable
Channel 16
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